

International Conservation



2004 Program Overview

Conservation of wildlife is a global priority. The survival of wildlife species largely depends on the health of habitats extending beyond political boundaries, and the need for international collaboration has never been greater. The Service is mandated through a number of statutes and international treaties to provide support for the conservation of species of international concern. For more than 20 years the Service's International Conservation program, through a series of *Wildlife Without Borders* initiatives, has developed projects for training wildlife managers and conserving species of international concern. These initiatives support DOI's Resource Protection Mission, aimed at sustaining biological communities, by fulfilling DOI's international obligations to manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species and create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish. These goals are achieved through projects that provide for habitat management training, education, information and technology exchange, and networks and partnerships. The International Conservation Program administers the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat* (Ramsar Convention) and *Multinational Species Conservation Acts* (rhinoceros, tigers, African and Asian elephants, and Great apes).

The Service is in the process of developing a new operational performance plan that directly aligns all program activities and objectives with the Secretary's four strategic plan mission components—Resource Protection, Resource Use, Recreation, and Serving Communities. The Service's operational plan will contain new long-term and annual performance goals and measures to guide the delivery of FWS program implementation, management reform, and budget formulation. The alignment and integration of program performance with budget formulation will provide the context for transparent accountability and the foundation for continual improvement. The Service anticipates completion of a new operational plan by fall of 2003.

International Conservation	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Estimate	FY 2004 Estimate
Species of International Concern benefitting from activities	17	17	17
Public and Private partners, both U.S. and abroad	85	85	85
Individuals trained long-term (> 6 months) Wildlife Management	50	50	50
Individuals trained short-term (< 6 months) Wildlife Management	140	140	140

Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America & The Caribbean

This initiative was established in 1983 to implement the *Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere* (Western Hemisphere Convention). It assists in the development of locally adapted wildlife management and conservation programs through grants that provide academic and technical training, conservation education, information exchange and technology transfer, networks and partnerships, and informed citizen participation in natural resource issues. Over the last five years the \$1 million in annual appropriations have leveraged over \$14.5 million in matching and in-kind support from a wide range of partner organizations.

Wildlife Without Borders- Mexico

In 1994 the Service and the Mexican Secretariat for the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries created this initiative to assist in capacity building for natural resource management in Mexico, ecosystem management via sustainable resource use, and information exchange to promote better management and understanding of conservation issues. *Wildlife Without Borders- Mexico* grants promote sustainable conservation practices through academic and technical training, conservation education, information exchange and technology transfer, networks and partnerships, and informed citizen participation in natural resource issues. Since 1995 this program has leveraged over \$10.8 million in matching and in-kind support, tripling the Service's investment.

Wildlife Without Borders- Russia & East Asia

For a decade the Service has collaborated with the Russian, Japanese and Chinese government agencies and scientific institutions to conserve wildlife under various treaties and protocols. The Service has assisted with the review and formulation of the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Agreement (enacted October, 2000). The Taiga and Tundra Program has addressed data gaps in understanding the complex habitats of Alaska and has expanded cooperation with nearby Arctic countries. The *Wildlife Without Borders- Russia Wildlife Conservation Grants Program* provides small assistance grants to declining wildlife reserves in Russia for refuge management training, law enforcement, communications, education, facility repair, transportation, publications and supplies.

Wildlife Without Borders- Near East, South Asia and Africa

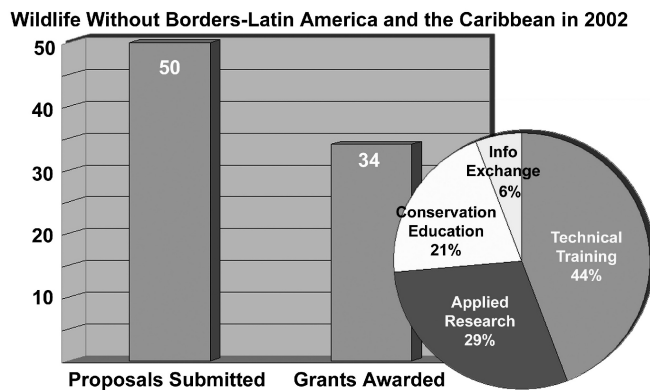
This initiative has generated more than 50 times the Service investment in counterpart funding (\$1 million in equivalent Indian rupees for the minimal Service investment of approximately \$20,000 per year) for more than 30 wildlife conservation projects supported by the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 and the U.S.- India Fund. This initiative also provides administrative support for the *Multinational Species Conservation Acts* targeted at African and Asian elephants, rhinoceros, tigers and Great apes.

2002 Program Performance Accomplishments

In FY 2002, the major accomplishments in the International Conservation Program include:

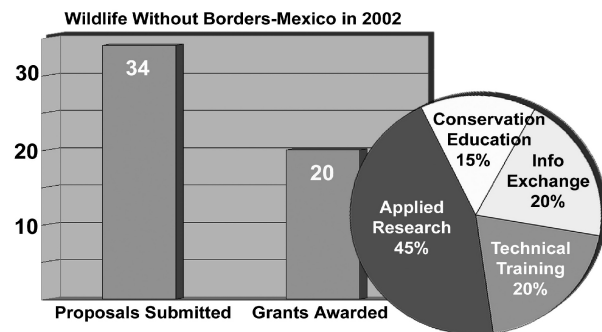
• *Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America & The Caribbean* (\$879,037)

During fiscal year 2002 the Service received 50 proposals and awarded 34 grants in a variety of program areas, leveraging \$1.36 million in matching funds. Projects under the Latin America & the Caribbean included activities to manage and conserve green sea turtles, osprey, Kemp's Ridley Sea turtle, Bahama parrot, rock iguana, West Indian whistling duck, great green macaw, Andean condor, white-winged guan, bearded wood partridge, neotropical migratory songbirds, migratory bats and migratory shorebirds.



• *Wildlife Without Borders- Mexico* (\$548,083)

During fiscal year 2002 the Service received 34 proposals and awarded 20 grants in a variety of program areas, leveraging \$1.4 million in matching funds. Projects under the Mexico initiative include activities to manage and conserve monarch butterfly, gray whale, desert bighorn sheep, quetzal, maroon-fronted parrot, neotropical cats, neotropical migratory birds, migratory shorebirds and migratory bat bats.



• *Wildlife Without Borders- Russia & East Asia*

During fiscal year 2002 the Russia Wildlife Conservation Grants Program provided funding for 22 grants, valued at a total of \$136,400, for the enhancement of law enforcement, refuge manager training and facilities management activities at Russian wildlife reserves. Additionally, activities under the Russia & East Asia initiative provided for technical and scientific exchanges focused on the management and conservation of walrus, sturgeon, salmon, polar bear, argali sheep, spectacled eider and Steller's eider.

• *Wildlife Without Borders- Near East, South Asia and Africa*

During fiscal year 2002 this initiative continued to support 30 on-going projects in India that focus on the survival of such species as the Siberian crane, Bengal tiger, white-backed vulture, green sea turtle, Indian wolf and their habitats. Additionally, cooperative efforts in southern Africa resulted in projects to train park rangers, develop community outreach programs adjacent to wildlife reserves and to conserve antelope, gazelles, large cats, bustards and numerous other species and their habitats. For

additional fiscal year 2002 accomplishments under this initiative, please see the section on the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Note: The International Conservation Program contributes to the goal of benefitting priority species of international concern through improved conservation efforts. FY 2002 table details can be found in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund section.

2003 Performance Goal Estimates

In FY 2003, significant accomplishments in the International Conservation Program will involve:

- Assist various public and private partners with the development and implementation of effective management plans for wetlands and other habitats important to migratory and resident waterfowl;
- Collaborate to conserve neotropical migratory bird species through an array of on-the-ground conservation activities in Latin America for species such as osprey, dickcissel, purple martin, and red knot;
- Promote implementation of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative throughout the ranges of neotropical migratory bird species shared with the U.S.;
- Enhance campesino communities' support for maintaining the world's only winter habitat reserve of the Monarch butterfly, integrating local people into conservation efforts and reconciling their land use practices with butterfly survival;

The Monarch butterfly's winter destinations in Mexican forest reserves continue to be plagued by logging, agriculture, uncontrolled tourism, erosion, and pollution. Any activity to resolve the struggle requires the inclusion of the local community in order to succeed.

- Facilitate international cooperation relating to the U.S./Canada/Mexico Trilateral Committee, international wetland activities, the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and other bi-national and multi-lateral initiatives;
- Fulfill statutory responsibilities and protect migratory species through joint surveys and other activities with Russian collaborators to conserve marine mammals, waterfowl, seabirds and shorebirds;
- Continue the Wildlife Reserve Conservation Grants Program to enhance law enforcement, refuge manager training and facilities maintenance activities, concentrating on those protected areas not previously awarded funding.

Note: The International Conservation Program contributes to the goal of benefitting priority species of international concern through improved conservation efforts. FY 2003 table details can be found in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund section.

Justification of Program Changes

Subactivity		2004 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
International Conservation	\$(000) FTE	3,592 16	-26

The FY 2004 budget request for International Conservation is \$3,592,000 and 16 FTE, a net program decrease of \$26,000 from the FY 2003 President's budget request level.

Under the Department's Strategic Plan, Intermediate Strategies require the FWS to restore and maintain proper function to watersheds and landscapes, create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish, and manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species. Activities at the base program level, in conjunction with International Wildlife Trade and the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, will support meeting species-specific international obligations by benefitting 31 species of international concern through improved conservation efforts.

Information Technology Reduction (- \$1,000)

The Department is undertaking significant information technology reforms to improve the management of information technology (IT) investments, to improve the security of systems and information, and to realize short and long-term efficiencies and savings. The Department is taking a corporate approach that will include consolidated purchases of hardware and software, and the review of select IT functions including centralized help desks, email support, web services, centralized network management, and coordination of training. The Service estimates a savings of \$6.6 million by participating in these Departmental efforts.

In addition, the Service will also achieve an additional \$2.0 million in savings in other operational IT investment by centralizing management of geographic software, implementing desktop standards, consolidating the Service messaging platform, and other similar activities.

The International Affairs Program's share of this reduction of \$1,000 reflects the anticipated savings from these cost cutting measures and reforms.

Travel Reduction (-\$25,000)

The request includes a \$25,000 reduction for travel expenses to be accomplished by curtailing unnecessary travel and relocation costs, as well as increased teleconferencing and use of central meeting locations.

The Service employs approximately 8,000 permanent full-time staff at approximately 700 field stations supported by seven regional offices and the Washington, D.C. headquarters office. Many of the staff transfer from one field location to another or accept assignments at the Washington or regional offices to expand their professional experience or increase their level of responsibility in the organization. Service employees frequently travel to meetings such as professional association of national, state, or local chapter quarterly and annual meetings. The Service recognizes there is a significant benefit to be obtained by having employees work at different locations and at increasing levels of responsibility. The proposed decrease will not eliminate the opportunity for relocating, but will increase the time between moves.

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Direct mission-related travel and travel associated with training will not be impacted by the proposed reduction. The Service will carefully evaluate policies and procedures related to attendance at meetings and conferences and will institute policies to limit redundancy in attendance.

Program Performance Summary

DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection - Improve Health of Watersheds, Landscapes and Marine Resources that are DOI Managed or Influenced in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water						
DOI End Outcome Measure: Wetland, Riparian and Upland Areas: x% of acres or stream/shoreline miles achieving desired conditions as specified in management plans consistent with applicable substantive and procedural requirements of State and Federal Water Law <i>(At this time this program is not contributing to this end outcome measure. The program is using this measure as a link to the Draft DOI Strategic Plan.)</i>						
DOI Intermediate Strategy 1: Restore and Maintain Proper Functions to Watersheds and Landscapes						
DOI Intermediate Outcome Measure: /FWS Workload Measures	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan (as of 12/03)	2004 Plan	Change (2003 Plan to 2004 Plan)
<u>Restoration:</u> Number of individuals trained on wetlands management	--	--	--	--	300	--
<u>Restoration:</u> Number of partners engaged in wetlands management	--	--	--	--	15	--

DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection - Biological Communities – Sustained Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water						
DOI End Outcome Measure: % change from baseline in the number of invasive species populations <i>(At this time this program is not contributing to this end outcome measure. The program is using this measure as a link to the Draft DOI Strategic Plan.)</i>						
DOI Intermediate Strategy 1: Create Habitat Conditions for Biological Communities to Flourish						
DOI Intermediate Outcome Measure: FWS Performance Measure	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan (as of 12/03)	2004 Plan	Change (2003 Plan to 2004 Plan)
<u>Invasive Species/Prevention:</u> # of risk assessments (RA) on high risk invasive species being intentionally imported into the U.S.	1 RA	8 RA	1 RA/ 28 species	4 RA/ 116 species	4 RA/ 116 species	-
FWS Workload Measures:						
<u>Invasive Species/Prevention:</u> # injurious/potentially invasive species permits processed	13	--	17	25	30	+5
# taxa reviewed for invasive characteristics	--	---	4	4	4	
DOI Intermediate Strategy 3: Improve information and assessments used for decision making						
FWS Workload Measures:						
<u>Customer Satisfaction:</u> # outreach products developed for habitat and species conservation	--	--	36	36	71	+35
# listing determinations made	--	--	16	10	12	+2
<u>Quality:</u> % listings validated through peer review or other method	--	---	100%	100%	100%	--

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

% peer reviews received or provided	--	--	1	3	5	+2
% multi-party stakeholder and treaty meetings held	--	--	38	29	37	+8
% of research studies completed for basic species information purposes	--	--	---	--	20	--
% of protocols developed	--	--	--	--	5	--
# people trained (decision-makers)	--	--	---	--	25	--

DOI Strategic Goal: Serving Communities - Quality Communities for Tribes						
DOI End Outcome Goal: Quality Communities for Tribe <i>(At this time this program is not contributing to this end outcome measure. The program is using this measure as a link to the Draft DOI Strategic Plan.)</i>						
DOI Intermediate Strategy 1: <i>Improve Communication and Responsiveness with tribes, Alaskan Natives, and Individual American Indians.</i>						
DOI Intermediate Outcome Measures:/ FWS Performance Measures	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan (as of 12/03)	2004 Plan	Change (2003 Plan to 2004 Plan)
<u>Leadership Satisfaction:</u> # Tribes in CITES Appendix II export program	---	---	5	7	13	+6
Supporting Workload/Activities/Outputs:						
<u>Leadership Satisfaction:</u> # CITES Tags issued to Tribes	---	---	246	646	3,046	+2,400
Other Department End Outcome Goals and Intermediate Goals Supported by These Funds:						
1) Resource Protection - Biological Communities (Goal 2), Strategy 1: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish; Strategy 2: Manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species. (See Multinational Species Conservation Fund)						